

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AS KS KN UN

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER KIM

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING ASST. SEC. INGERSOLL'S JAN. 25
CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER KIM DONG JO, KIM RAISED THREE
SUBJECTS: NON-AGGRESSION PACT, UN QUESTION, AND AUSTRALIAN
MOVES TO RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA (LATTER BEING REPORTED
SEPTEL). INGERSOLL TOOK OCCASION TO EXPRESS CONCERN RE
SOUTH KOREAN EMERGENCY DECREES WITH BOTH KIM AND PRIMIN.
USIA DIRECTOR KEOGH DID LIKEWISE IN SEPARATE CALL ON
FONMIN JAN. 26. END SUMMARY.

1. FONMIN KIM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SUPPORT USG HAS
GIVEN PRESIDENT PARK'S PROPOSAL FOR A NON-AGGRESSION
PACT WITH NORTH KOREA. HE STATED NORTH KOREANS HAVE
NOT RENDERED OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE IDEA, ALTHOUGH NORTH
KOREAN REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF JAN. 21 SNCC MEETING COULD
BE RELATED TO THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT. KIM ALSO NOTED
A NOARTH KOREAN BROADCAST WHICH WAS NEGATIVE. IN
ADDITION TO US SUPPORT, KIM NOTED "MANY COUNTRIES"
HAVE REACTED FAVORABLY.

2. REGARDING QUESTION OF WHETHER KOREA WOULD BE ON
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UNGA AGENDA NEXT FALL, KIM EXPRESSED HOPE ITEM WOULD NOT BE INSCRIBED. TO AVOID INSCRIPTION, ACCORDING TO KIM, ROKG WILL REQUIRE US ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY WITH PRC. HE EXPRESSED VIEW PRC WOULD BE CRITICAL PRESSURE POINT IN WORKING OUT AN ARRANGEMENT TO AVOID UNGA DEBATE AND INABILITY OF ROKG TO DISCUSS ISSUE WITH PRC LEFT IT UP TO US TO SOUND OUT PRC INTENTIONS. KIM ADDED HE DID NOT FORESEE SOVIETS PUSHING ISSUE IN UNGA IF PRC DID NOT. IN RESPONSE TO INGERSOLL'S QUERY, KIM SAID HE SAW LITTLE HOPE FOR PROGRESS IN SNCC TALKS PRIOR TO UNGA SESSION.

3. KIM EXPRESSED HOPE US SIDE WOULD BE PREPARED BY ABOUT FEB 1 TO COMMENCE DISCUSSIONS ON HOW TO HANDLE ISSUE OF UNGA, NOTING THAT ROKG SHOULD HAVE STAFF STUDIES COMPLETED BY THAT TIME. KIM SUGGESTED TALKS COULD BE HELD WITH AMBASSADOR HABIB AND POSSIBLY ASST SECRETARY SNEIDER, SHOULD SNEIDER BE ABLE TO COME TO KOREA FOLLOWING SECURITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE TALKS IN JAPAN.

4. INGERSOLL RAISED WITH FONMIN SUBJECT OF RECENT EMERGENCY MEASURES IN KOREA. ASST SECRETARY, SPEAKING AS "A FRIEND," NOTED USG HAS SERIOUS CONCERNS WITH THE IMAGE SUCH ACTIONS CAN CREATE FOR KOREA IN US PRESS, CONGRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION. INGERSOLL STATED THAT WHILE USG WILL NOT COMMENT PUBLICLY ON THE RECENT ACTIONS, WE NEVERTHELESS HAVE GREATER DIFFICULTY UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES RENDERING TYPE OF HELP WHICH KOREA EXPECTS FROM THE US. KIM NOTED HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THIS POSITION. HE AGREED IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ROKG TO PRESENT ITS SIDE OF STORY TO FOREIGN PRESS, AND INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO SEE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS WHO SHOULD REQUEST INTERVIEWS.

5. DURING JAN. 26 CALL ON PRIMIN KIM CHONG PIL, INGERSOLL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PM'S EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN DIALOGUE WITH STUDENTS AND OTHERS. ALLUDING TO IMPORTANCE AMERICANS PLACE ON PRESS AND OTHER BASIC FREEDOMS, INGERSOLL ADDED IT IMPORTANT TO INSURE FOREIGN NEWSMEN ALSO HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH KOREAN CONFIDENTIAL

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OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE CRITICISM OF KOREAN INTERNAL SITUATION IN US PRESS AND CONGRESS. PRIMIN COMMENTED THAT IDEALISTIC OUTSIDERS FAIL TO RECOGNIZE IMPERATIVES FOR ROK ACTIONS WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO ENSURE STABILITY. LIMITATIONS ON FREEDOM OF PRESS ARE DESIGNED PREVENT SOCIAL CHAOS AND ROKG INTENDS TO PROVE CRITICISM WRONG BY DEMONSTRATING POSITIVE

RESULTS FLOWING FROM RECENT MEASURES.

6. IN SEPARATE CALL ON FONMIN JAN 26, USIA DIRECTOR
KEOGH, SPEAKING IN CONTEXT HIS OWN EXPERIENCE AND
RESPONSIBILITIES IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS FIELD, SPOKE OF
LIKELIHOOD THAT EMERGENCY MEASURES COULD HAVE ADVERSE
EFFECT ON ATTITUDES OF US PRESS, CONGRESS AND PUBLIC
TOWARD KOREA. FONMIN DID NOT ATTEMPT DEFEND POLICY,
BUT SOBERLY ACKNOWLEDGED EXISTENCE OF PROBLEM AND
SAID HE WOULD QUOTE DO MY BEST UNQUOTE.
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